



520.35237CV4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. KAJI et al
Application No.: 10/808,559
Filed: March 25, 2004
For: A PLASMA PROCESSING APPARATUS
Art Unit: 1763
Examiner: M. CROWELL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 2, 2006

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a form PTO/SB/08A for the Examiner's consideration listing prior art cited in a March 17, 2006 Office Action in related Serial no. 10/985,052.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted, on information and belief, before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits following the filing of an RCE on May 12, 2006.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by the following remarks.

With regard to the cited references, in the March 17, 2006 Office Action in the related case Serial No. 10/985,052, the Koishiishi patent (USP 5,919,332) and the Deguchi patent (USP 5,006,192) have each been utilized in a rejection of the claims pending in that application. However, none of the rejected claims in question in Serial No. 10/985,052 define the feature found in the present claims of this application of a discharge confining means made of SiC. Further, neither Deguchi, Koishiishi or any of the other cited documents on the attached list teach or suggest the feature of a discharge confining means made of SiC found in all of the independent claims of the present application. For example, in Deguchi, the third electrode brought in column 3, line 51, et seq is formed of stainless steel. It is noted that stainless steel is a conductor, and not a semiconductor material such as the claimed SiC. With regard to the Koishiishi reference, on the other hand, the discharge confining element is formed of quartz, which is an insulator (and clearly fails to meet the claim limitation regarding SiC found in all of the independent claims of the present application). Accordingly, in light of the distinctions of the present claims over each of the documents listed on the attached form PTO/SB08A, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application clearly define not only over the cited prior art of record, but also over these listed documents.

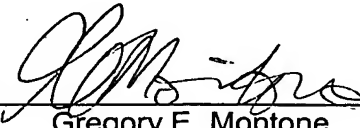
If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this

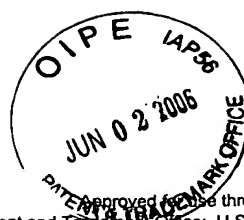
paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.35237CV4) and, please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 
Gregory E. Montone
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GEM/dks
Enclosure
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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	S.N. 10/808,559		
		Filing Date	March 25, 2004		
		First Named Inventor	T. KAJI et al		
		Art Unit	1763		
		Examiner Name	M. CROWELL		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	520.35237CV4

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
		5,006,192		04-1991	DEGUCHI, M.	
		5,192,370		03-1993	ODA et al	
		5,693,370		03-1993	FURUKAWA et al	
		5,735,960		04-1998	SANDHU et al	
		5,779,803		07-1998	KURONO et al	
		6,197,151	B1	03-2001	KAJI et al	
		2005/0236109	A1	10-2005	MASUDA et al	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁶ (if known)				
		JP 3-237715	10-1991	SHIOTANI et al		

OTHER PRIOR ART—NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.